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# WRL News

Number 215 The War Resisters League Nov.-Dec. 1979

# Anti-Nuke Movement On the Offensive

*Looking down Broad Street in front of the New York Stock Exchange on October 29.* *Photo by Steve Jackson*

## 1045 Arrests at Wall Street

**by Nora Lumley**

At 7:30 in the morning on October 29, the fiftieth anniversary of the stock market crash, about three thousand demonstrators converged simultaneously from all directions on the New York Stock Exchange. Thus began one of the most dramatic, well organized, and militant examples of mass nonviolent action in recent years, which remained solidly nonviolent in the face of repeated police provocation and violence.

The action brought together antinuclear organizers from New York, New England, and many other parts of the country. But the action pulled together more than these activists: the issues it covered, the groups that organized it and the radical politics required

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## Mobilization Shuts Down DoE

**by John M. Miller**

Inspired by the stories of nuclear victims and aided by a nonarrest policy of the Federal Protective Service, the Mobilization for Survival succeeded in closing all access to the Department of Energy for several hours, Monday Oct.

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*Arrest beginning at one of the five police check points in the Wall Street area. Photo by Steve Jackson*

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to target Wall Street have undoubtedly strengthened the anti-nuclear movement and the ties between it and other peace and social change groups. The demands of the action were to stop financing the nuclear industry (shut down all nukes and zero nuclear weapons); full employment, health care and housing through a peacetime economy; public ownership and democratic control of energy industries; safe renewable energy, affordable heat and transportation, no winter shut-offs and stop nuclear exports and exploitation of Native Americans, black South Africans and other people. People, politics and action came together to pull off a highly publicized (more police press passes were requested for this action than for the Pope's visit!) and effective blockade of the "capitol of capital."

The New York Stock Exchange went to unprecedented lengths to "guarantee" they would be able to open on time Monday morning. A strike-breaking scenario was put into effect: top level executives were bedded down on mattresses inside the Exchange the night before, all other employees were asked to come in 2 to 3 hours earlier than usual, overtime pay and special meals were given to many employees, messenger service and deliveries were cancelled, and all leaves were revoked. Special ID badges were issued to all employees, handles were removed from the exteriors of key entrances to prevent them from being chained shut, a bridge linking an adjoining building was hustled through completion. Employees in the Wall Street area were cautioned about "fringe" people, "pickpockets", and "unruly" demonstrators. Exchange employees were warned, in a series of special memos the week before the action, that "all absences on October 29 will be considered demonstration related;" absenses from work would have to be proved. "Special arrangements to handle [the] possibility.....of a 'sympathy action' on the Floor [of the Exchange] by member personnel" were made by the New York Stock Exchange.

Despite all these precautions and the fact that the Exchange did open at 10 am to the sound of cheers from the Floor, the media did not mention that mixed with those cheers were boos from the Floor. The media also downplayed a report by a Wall Street analyst that the unusually low volume of shares traded on October 29 (the lowest in 6 months) "possibly...might have been impacted by the nuclear demonstrations[;] it may have kept some traders out." General Public Utilities, which owns the Three Mile Island reactor, fell to a new low; and McDermott, whose Babcock and Wilcox subsidiary designed the reactor; also dropped.

There were surprises throughout the demonstration. Early in the day, a stockbroker on his way to work actually joined the action, and was arrested after blocking access to the checkpoint he'd been about to enter. A wife and 2-year-old child of one of the arresting officers was also arrested. Several hundred demonstrators were arrested by 9AM, but found their booking and processing over so quickly that many returned to Wall Street to rejoin the blockade. When the police realized this was occurring, they began carting prisoners off to Brooklyn to be held all day in buses.

Decisions throughout the action were made using consensus, and even those activists most committed to this decision making process were awed and proud of how effectively it was used. When it became apparent that crowd dispersal, rather than arrest, was the goal of the police, a large march around lower Manhattan and a sit-in across Broadway were proposed, discussed and effected within an hour and a half. The police themselves reported that our decentralized communication and decision-making left them but two minutes, their agents' efforts notwithstanding, to prepare for this lunchtime march and civil disobedience.

The worst surprise of the day, however, was the harsh and aggressive attitude of the police, which went largely unreported by the press. Despite their having been advised of the nonviolent commitment of the demonstrators, riot gear and police horses were called out and used. In some cases, horses were spurred into crowds of seated people, and many peaceful people were struck, clubbed and kicked. The demonstrators, most of whom had had nonviolence training, remained calm, however, and resisted being dispersed. This action was the first civil disobedience for many, but for both the seasoned and the inexperienced, it was not an easy day to get through.

Witnessing such abuses, however,

*Bread & Puppet Theater's "Uncle Fatso" at Wall and Broad Streets October 29. Photo by Steve Jackson*

*Blockading a check point.* *Photo by Dorothy Marder.*

while observing the determination of the activists, turned out to be more inspiring than frightening. By the end of the day there had been 1045 people arrested and noncooperation and resistance continued in the jails throughout the night. For the first time in New York City there were many people refusing together to cooperate with arrest and booking. Those who noncooperated until arraignment and then identified themselves had their cases adjourned in contemplation of dismissal, conveniently halting their legal entanglement. Ten noncooperators found themselves carrying their struggle to Rikers Island, but were released within two days, never having given their names.

Mention must be made, too, of the truly political rally held Sunday, October 28, at the World Trade Center, prior to Monday's civil disobedience. With a deliberate emphasis away from big name speakers in favor of activists and radical politics, the rally drew connections between oppression the world over and corporate domination. Activists and community organizers addressed the crowd about South Africa, Native American rights, gay oppression, and civil liberties, to name just a few of the topics the anti-nuclear focus. There was an even mix of men and women speakers, and in spite of the rain and the resultant low turn-out, the rally set a fine example of how to encourage people to take power back into their own hands. Many of the rally speakers risked arrest themselves in the Monday action, including Grace Paley, Kate Donnelly, and Daniel Ellsberg.

The Wall Street action was effective and the activists remain strong. Wall Street and its corporations can expect to hear again from this radical and growing movement.

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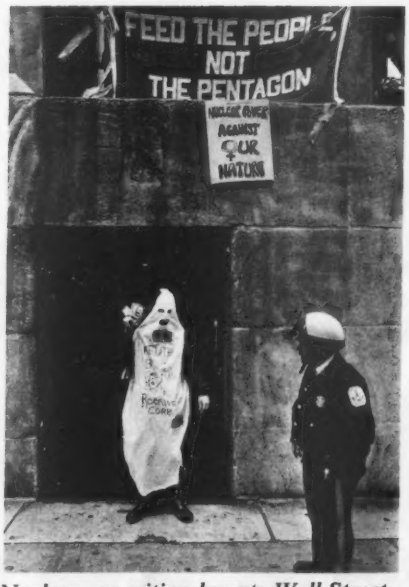
*Nora Lumley works with the New York City WRL local and the SHAD Alliance.*




*Nuclear apparition haunts Wall Street. Photo by Steve Jackson*

**WRL NONVIOLENCE TAG WARDS OFF POLICE CLUB**

"I saw a [Practice Nonviolence] tag of yours at the bloody Seabrook Occupation [on October 6]...I was part of a five-day ongoing candle-light vigil for nonviolence. We passed out our plea to demonstrators and police and passersby," Lynn Chong wrote in a recent letter to WRL.

"At one point, wearing this card saved me from the police club. With other of the vigilers we were investigating Maine State Troopers who were macing, clubbing, robbing occupiers who were not on Public Service Company lands but on private land with public use."

## NEW WRL ANTI-NUKE POSTER

This dramatic, black on white anti-nuclear poster was designed by Peg Averill for use at the May 6 March on Washington. It measures 17" x 22" and is available for a dollar.

Clip and mail to WRL, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012.

☐ Please send me _____posters. Enclosed is $ _____(1-4 is $1 each, 5-24 is 75¢, 25-49 is 60¢, 50-99 is 45¢, 100 and up 35¢).

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

# DIRECT ACTION AGAINST NUCLEAR WAR

## —a case for tax resistance—

**by Ed Hedemann**

Direct action, as conventionally defined, means those who are adversely affected by a situation are the ones who try to change that situation, rather than appeal to third parties (such as the courts, the government, or the general public). Direct action is often resorted to when other methods seem inadequate, or fail, or need to be supplemented.

When to use direct action is often a controversial question within the movement. Some feel that as long as we have a *roughly* responsive system, the need to resort to direct action is minimal.

I would like to ask those who question the use of direct action "at what point would you be willing to use such methods? Ever?" Most people might say that "When a problem reaches a state of critical or dangerous proportions, that to wait for or rely on a third party is irresponsible."

The arms race, the dangers of nuclear power, the poverty and injustices around the world are at such critical stages that we need, individually and collectively, to resist these problems ourselves, in addition to any appeals to third parties. We cannot rely solely on elected or appointed officials and military personnel to be adequate guardians of our safety and well being.

As A.J. Muste once pointed out "The two decisive powers of government with respect to war are the power to tax and the power to conscript." For arms race opponents, one of the most direct personal ways to oppose armaments--even with a draft--is tax resistance. A third of the money we pay to the Federal government each year goes to current military. And if we include past wars, that means half of our Federal income taxes goes to wars and the military.

The basic logic and rationale for war tax resistance would be to

- personally reduce our complicity with the war-making machinery
- redirect money to programs which suffer because of arms race or those organizations actively working against the arms race.
- make a dramatic statement to the government in opposition to the arms race
- offer resistance to the smoothly operating military machine
- motivate and inspire others into escalating their opposition to nuclear arms race.

Tax resistance isn't new. It's origins in this country began over 200 years ago with the Quaker and Mennonite opposition the French and Indian war. Today there are probably several thousand people who are refusing some portion of their income taxes in opposition to the military; and perhaps three times as many refusing to pay the Federal tax on telephone service.

There has been a resurgence of tax resistance among elements of the historic peace churches as well as more conventional religious groups, as reflected in last year's "New Call to Peacemaking" statement. Among the new effeorts to expand tax resistance have been a"Conscience and Military Tax Resolution" put out by Suffolk County Committee for a World Peace Tax Fund (44 Bellhaven Road, Bellport, NY 11713) which commits signers to withhold the military portion of their income taxes when 100,000 have signed up; also, the Disarmament Program at Riverside Church (122 Street and Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027) is seeking to collect 25,000 signers to a tax resistance pledge.

I am not suggesting that tax resistance should be used as a means simply to save money, but as a means to offer resistance and a dramatic protest to World War III, U.S. imperialism, and the deterioration of our society. Tax resisters are encouraged to reroute their money to appropriate groups and projects, or at least put it into an alternative fund.

How can we convince the general public and government officials to take more moderate steps, if we—who are so concerned and committed to ending the arms race—aren't willing to take more daring steps?

*Ed Hedemann is on WRL national staff.*

*The largest anti-nuclear rally in U.S. history drew 200,000 people to Battery Park City in New York City on September 23.*
*Photo by Stan Sherakowski*

# Opposition to the Draft and Recruiting Growing

**by Helen Michalowski**

On October 16, the 12th anniversary of the first demonstration at the Oakland Induction Center, 130 people took part in a legal, nonviolent march through downtown Oakland and an informational picket line at the Oakland Induction Center (through which all people entering the military from northern California are processed). We leafletted people on the street, carried good signs ("You Don't Have to Be a Soldier to Be a Man" and "Military Spending Causes Inflation") and had good conversations with people on the street, as well as some of the people being inducted that day.

During the year 1979, people across the country effectively organized at the grass roots level to prevent return of the draft. We were successful in gaining a short reprieve in that Congress put off its decision until at least next year. The current legislation requires the President to submit to Congress by January 15, 1980 a plan for reform of the Selective Service System and the legislation necessary to implement that plan.

Items to be covered in the proposed plan and legislation include: registration for the draft, automatic registration using existing state, federal and school records, authority for the President to induct, whether women should be registered and inducted, whether a "national service" program should be started, and any other changes necessary for the Armed Forces to obtain all the people they think they need.

Even without the draft, many people are forced into the military because they have few if any other opportunities for a job. Thus, long-term work against the draft has to include an emphasis on unemployment and the human costs of military spending. Over half of the current federal budget goes to pay off past wars or prepare for new ones. A recent study by the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy shows that 14,000 jobs are lost for every billion dollars spent to create labor intensive, entry level and skilled jobs which would meet the real needs of people for housing, mass transportation, health and child care, etc. In the long term, we must create economic alternatives so that people have choices beyond either jail or the military.

A second long term consideration in draft resistance work involves changing roles for women and men in this country. The Pentagon is taking unprecedented measures to recruit women because the population of males 17-22 years old has decreased 15% and they intend to make up the difference with women. Every effort must be made to increase public awareness that being in the military means more oppression, not more opportunity for women. At the same time, we need to change all those subtle and not-so-subtle messages to men that to be really male one must be dominant, aggressive, and risk life and limb on some battlefield.

In keeping with these goals, WRL/West throughout 1979 played a central role in pulling together a coalition to oppose return of the draft and to counter military recruiters. In October 1979, this coalition (Bay Area Network to Resist Military Conscription) planned and carried out a series of events around the theme: "Stop the Draft/Full Employment/No More War".

In cooperation with the Oakland Study Center, a collective of community organizers and political activists, we sponsored a forum in Oakland on October 12. Alameda County Supervisor John George prepared a statement in which he criticized US militarism, denounced plans to institute a registration for the draft, and maintained that national defense really means seeing to the health, employment, social service, recreation, education, housing and nutritional needs of people in this country. Speakers Ollie Taylor of the Oakland Study Center and I spoke about the danges of US militarism and the relationships between unemployment and the draft.

While the forum was small (about 30 people), participants were eager for information about possible return of the draft and the drawbacks of military employment. People from the Oakland community, many of them organizers, expressed their desire to raise the issue of ROTC with the Oakland School Board as a means of keeping these concerns alive during the coming year. Several requests for school presentations also resulted from the forum.

On October 15, a rally and teach-in were held at UC Berkeley. David Harris addressed approximately 500 students about draft resistence and decreased consumption as the best defense against "resource wars." Other speakers throughout the day spoke about the problems of Vietnam veterans, peace conversion, US military presence abroad, especially Southern Africa and the Philippines, the connection between sexism and militarism, and other related topics.

We were very pleased with these events which received good press coverage and served to make people aware that the draft is not dead. And most important, in the process of putting together these actions, we had occasion to meet and work with people organizing at the neighborhood level in Oakland. We were especially pleased and excited to find people very open to and interested in furthering the possibility of peace conversion as a means of increasing employment opportunities, and look forward to continuing work along these lines.

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*Helen Michalowski is on staff of WRL/West.*

### J.P. NARAYAN DIES

Indians called Narayan "J.P.", just as we used to call Muste "A.J." Like A.J., J.P. was a pacifist of unchallenged integrity to his opponents as well as to his supporters. He was one of the last of the Gandhi-era leaders of nonviolence in India. He died of a heart attack on Oct. 8 in Patna at the age of 76. Thousands joined his funeral cortege, including Indira Gandhi, who had imprisoned him during her "emergency" dictatorship in 1975.

in New York, two memorial services were held at the Indian Consulate on the weekend of Oct. 13-14. WRL was represented by Ralph DiGia, Jim Peck, Rose Mukerji, and Marj and Bob Swann.

### A WRL CHAPTER ON ALABAMA'S DEATH ROW

Johnny Imani Harris, with whom Jim Peck has been corresponding, has formed a WRL chapter on death row at Holman Station, Alabama (Atmore). In an Oct. 22 letter to Jim, Imani wrote: "I have shared the WRL material with the brothers here, who like to read it and say they support WRL."

# Resisting the Draft in South Africa

**by Paul Van Wyk**

Today most Americans are aware of South Africa's involvement in wars on the African continent. They also are aware of apartheid and the systematic suppression of all black South Africans and that South Africa is the only nation which officially espouses Hitler's racial policy.

While the 1970s were relatively calm in America, there was growing instability in South Africa. Each passing year saw a new demand for freedom by black Africans and each new demand was met by increased repression.

The State Department has not taken a position yet on whether to grant asylum to South African draft resisters. Conscripts are drawn from the minority white elite, and military training first became compulsory in 1969. Young men are required to register at 16, and start training two months after graduating from high school. The duration of service is 2 years. Much of this time is spent in Namibia where the South African military machine is waging a fierce struggle against the Southwest African Peoples Organization. After the 2 years are up, the draftees must go to a number of "camps," arbitrary in number and duration. Even before they register, at the age of 13, South African school children are taught to march, and to take target practice.

In late 1974 civil war broke out in Angola. South Africa was quick to invade in the hope of installing a puppet government. The attempt failed. Increased activity on the Angolan border forced the apartheid government to increase the number of troops in Namibia and to make raids on the SWAPO refugee camps in Angola.

The troops hadn't been home 16 months from Angola when riots broke out in Soweto. The apartheid government again had to make use of its military machine, this time only 29 miles from Johannesburg. The riots quickly spread throughout the country. The atmosphere of uncertainty remained strong for almost a year. Then, when the disturbances centered around the commemoration of June 16 had settled, Steve Biko was killed in prison. Police Minister Jimmy Kruger was callous enough to say, "Biko's death leaves me cold." The murder provoked more protests which were met with increased repression. Up to 19 organizations were banned and many individuals were detained.

In this atmosphere of fear, the apartheid government was able to win by an overwhelming majority in the elections of late 1977. Of course, only whites went to the polls.

At this juncture a number of conscripts chose either to desert or to leave the country before reporting for induction. Any young man refusing induction is sentenced to three years in jail. The sentence can be repeated as long as he is of draft age. The apartheid government has made it a crime to even discuss refusing service, and few Western countries offer refuge to South African draft resisters--including the U.S.

Methods of refusing service vary. To date there are about 20 draft resisters in the U.S. and more in London. Some have managed to obtain student visas. Some have relatives abroad who can help them immigrate. But the majority have no relatives outside South Africa, and stand little chance of obtaining student visas. These South Africans can only leave South Africa as tourists and face an uncertain future in America. This makes understandable the attitude that draft resistance is impossible. A military magazine suggested a computerized system to control the issuing of passports. Only those who had completed their two years of military service would get them. Deferments would be granted only to engineering and medical students.

In spite of growing opposition to apartheid most conscripts are aware of the difficulties that face them if they should decide to flee South Africa. It seems that the position of the U.S. State Department is that if one is called for military service in any country it is a crime to refuse service. This holds true for South Africa, but I wonder what response a Soviet deserter from Cuba would receive.

As one of the conscientious objectors who chose to take a risk in the United States, I can say that if the State Department insists that we fight a war in South Africa, I can only hope that we have the courage to fight together against the apartheid regime.

In the meantime draft resisters from South Africa will continue to be faced with the decision of whether or not to live on the fringes of society in America, or elsewhere, as stateless persons or to serve the apartheid regime.

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*Paul Van Wyk, South African draft resister, is having his case handled by the ACLU.*

## MOBE CONFERENCE

The 1980's confront us with the most basic issue of all: *human survival.* The enormous growth of nuclear technology poses the possibility of either human annihilation or slow genocide through ecological devastation. More immediate are the unmet human needs of the vast majority of humanity: lack of food and decent shelter, inadequate or non-existent health care, too few jobs and educational opportunities.

The Mobilization for Survival will hold its third annual national conference Dec. 7-9 at the University of Louisville, Kentucky, on the theme "Survival in the 80's—Building a Unified Movement." This gathering will provide an opportunity for a wide range of activists to share ideas and skills and to plan strategy for the coming years. Activities for the conferees include:

—Skills and Issues workshops such as Trident, M-X, Uranium Mining on Native Lands, Nuclearism and Feminism, Fundraising, Nonviolence Training, Lobbying, and others

—Music by Charlie King and others

—Major speakers: Phil Berrigan—Atlantic Life Community; Randi Forsberg—co-author, *The Price of Defense;* Dr. Michio Kaku—Professor of Theoretical Physics, City College of New York; Orville President, National Association of Atomic Veterans; Mark Tilsen—Native American, Black Hills alliance

—Regional caucuses

—Evaluating the past year's activities and deciding on strategy for the future

—Just getting together with folks for a good time!

Registration is $15 in advance, $20 at the door, $5 for students, unemployed and fixed income. Housing and childcare are free. To register, send name, address, phone number and registration fee to: Mobilization for Survival, 3601 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104; phone number: (215) 386-4875.

# Trident Action

Over 3,000 people gathered at the Naval Submarine Base at Bangor, Washington, to protest the Trident Submarine System, and, in particular, the deployment of the Trident I missiles now being backfitted into Poseidon submarines. The Trident Conversion Action of October 28-29 focused on the need for a national peace conversion plan and world disarmament.

The Bangor action, which was held in conjunction with ten other anti-Trident demonstrations across the nation, kicked off at a farm adjacent to the Navy Base beginning with speakers, music and a rally. Concerned citizens of all ages and political persuasions then paraded to the Base gate carrying colorful banners and signs declaring their dissatisfaction with spiralling military spending and the increasing threat of nuclear war.

Upon arriving at the Base, people began constructing a symbolic "Peace Conversion City," a display of alternative uses of funds now being used for expanded military programs.

The City occupied the area outside of the main entrance to the base, closing it to traffic, and several hundred yards of a narrow, grassy strip between the base fence and a county roadway.

Late in the day, tents were pitched at Peace Conversion City. A vigil was held at the gate through the night. The next morning, Monday, the affinity groups began to illegally enter the base in civil disobedience and continued to enter the base in waves throughout the day.

The trespassers were taken to the base gymnasium where they were processed by federal and Naval authorities and released Monday evening with letters barring them from entering the base again and a summons to appear in court for arraignment the following morning.

Arrested were 112 trespassers including 18 persons who entered the base at points other than the area visible to the general public at the main gate and leafletted inside the base at the officer's club, dispensary, and housing areas.

A nonviolent tone was maintained throughout the action. Guards and demonstrators exhibited mutual respect. Open communication by means of weekly leafletting had been done for more than a year prior to this action.

Arraignments were held on Tuesday in Seattle. All but two of the 112 defendants entered a plea of not guilty. Trials are expected to be held early in 1980. Those who pleaded guilty were given a 30-day suspended jail sentence and put on three years unsupervised probation.

**WRL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

*The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all the causes of war.*

☐ I support this statement and wish to enroll as a member of the **War Resisters League.**

Signature _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

send to
War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street
New York, N.Y. 10012

# Rocky Flats Collection

**by Jim Peck**

When I went to see U.S. Attorney John Dent, who attached by bank account to collect a $100 fine which I refused to pay at Rocky Flats last April, he requested the button I was wearing -- "SHUT DOWN THE NUKES." I took it off and gave it to him.

The lien was the final step in a long and costly effort by the government to collect the fine. When a federal magistrate in Denver imposed it last April, I stated that I could not, in good conscience, pay but that I was ready to go to jail if necessary. The magistrate replied that he could not imprison me under the particular statute under which 284 of us had been arrested. He said the government would "collect forcibly." As a longtime war tax resister, I knew what that meant.

I thought that was the end of it, but after I broke my back in June, I received a summons to come to Denver within 3 days for "reopening the case." If I failed to appear, the summons said, a federal marshal would pick me up and take me out there. I phoned the court to find out what this was about and was told that the new proceedings would be dropped if I paid the fine. I had my doctor write the court saying that I was not in shape to travel. Two months later, I received a letter from Dent stating that the case had been transferred to New York, Apparently, the government had decided this would cost less than for a marshal to take me to Denver. All this to collect $100!

*Jim Peck is editor of* WRL News

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effectiveness of the action in opening up a dialogue with DOE. According to DOE's Director of Consumer Affairs, Tina Hobson, Secretary of Energy Duncan was "impressed" with the blockade, and said our "point was well made". Hobson said DOE plans to look into the case of Joe Harding and of Native American uranium miners in the Southwest. They invited us to monthly meetings to discuss these and any other issues we want to raise.

MFS is ready to discuss these and other cases. But we will keep foremost in those discussions our goal of ending nuclear victimization through the end of nuclear weapons and power. We will continue to demand this in meetings and in future nonviolent actions.

*John Miller was part of the Washington staff for the DoE action and is a member of the Potomac Alliance.*

**WRL NEWS**

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WRL is the U.S. branch of the War Resisters' International, a pacifist organization with affiliates in 20 countries and individuals in more than 80 countries.

Editor: Jim Peck
Staff: Karl Bissinger
Ralph DiGia
Ed Hedemann
Grace Hedemann
David McReynolds

WRL News (from 1967 on) is available on microfilm from University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

*Blockade of DoE begins (John Miller is second from right in the foreground). Photo by Maureen Weaver.*

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29. As a result of this action and a meeting held earlier in the morning between the victims and DOE officials, MFS has been asked to meet monthly with the DOE. MFS was also told that the Secretary of Energy, Charles Duncan, had called the action "legitimate and significant".

The two days of events held under the theme "No More Nuclear Victims" began with a teach-in. Nuclear victims testified, including Shigeko Sasamori, a Hiroshima survivor; Orville Kelly, who witnessed 22 nuclear weapons tests; Harry Coppola, a Marine veteran who marched into Nagasaki six weeks after the bombing; and Joe Harding, a uranium enrichment worker. Each told of their experiences with radioactive materials, the diseases they suffer as a result and attempts to get compensation. They were unanimous in calling for an end to nuclear power and weapons, and in their desire to fight the nuclear industry for as long as they are able.

We rallied at the Capitol Monday morning several hundred strong, joined by a delegation of Gray Panthers from their national convention, and we marched to DOE amidst chants of "Free the Peacemakers, Stop the Warmakers".

After another rally at which victims spoke about their earlier meeting with DOE officials and Dave Dellinger and Daniel Ellsberg brought greetings from the Wall Street Action, we sat down in front of one of the open doors. Affinity groups then moved to other open doors. Many people spontaneously joined us in the blockade, including a Gray Panther in a wheel chair, increasing our number to about 200. A game of cat and mouse ensued as other doors were opened and we scrambled to block them. Demonstrators were persistent in the face of police attempts to shove them aside. At one point ten entrances were blocked. Several times police radios crackled with reports that no doors were open.

DOE officials and the Federal Protective Service had told us before the action that they would do everything in their power not to arrest us. We were also told that they wanted to keep the building open to the public that day. DOE likes to claim that it is open to all viewpoints, has nothing to hide and does not deal with the technologies of death.

Ideas such as trying to enter the building and attempting to go to the Secretary's office were discussed beforehand. It was agreed that we would block the main doors together and spread out to block other doors as they were opened. If this did not result in arrest we would all try to enter the building. The Forrestal building has over 70 doors; our expected number, about 75, was small. As it turned out, entering was impossible.

Late that afternoon, we lay down symbolizing a "die-in" of nuclear victims, forcing the exiting employees to step over us. The names of known nuclear victims were solemnly read from placards each of us wore around our necks. We ended the day with songs, feeling good about our lengthy and highly visible interference with business as usual at DOE, despite the lack of arrests.

It is clear from the news coverage we received that DOE's non-arrest policy had an effect on the coverage. Though the building was effectively closed from 1-5 p.m., the news media did not consider this newsworthy. Nor did they report on the presence or statements of the victims, enabling DOE to continue the coverup of the deaths and disease radiation causes.

They also failed to report the

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*DoE employees walking through human carpet on October 29. Photo by Maureen Weaver.*